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Sid Kane/UNDP

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf and UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth at the signing of a joint declaration on sustainable food security.

FAO and UNDP announce global effort to promote sustainable food security

UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will wage a concerted global drive to promote sustainable food security, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries where the margin between persistent hunger and starvation is narrowing.

"There is much to be done and little time for those suffering from hunger," FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf and UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth said in a joint declaration announcing cooperative activities and the establishment of a special FAO/UNDP Sustainable Food Security Task Force to implement and monitor their efforts.

"Sustainable food security must be achieved in the face of demographic pressures," the joint declaration stated. "Our population numbers stand at 5.5 billion and will grow to over 8 billion by 2025, with 90 per cent of the increase in developing countries and most in urban centres. Food production must more than double by the year 2025, just to keep pace with demand growth, and it must be accessible equally to urban consumers and the rural poor".

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John Isaac/UN

A recent report identifies the needs of Palestinian women in the areas of governance, human resource development and economic participation. Young women in Gaza.

New report targets needs of Palestinian women

Palestinian women's participation in decision-making in law, health, education, labour organizations and financial institutions is almost non-existent, according to a report prepared for UNDP. "Unless women have a voice in decision-making bodies, their rights and emerging needs will most likely be overlooked," says the 160-page report, which targets the areas of governance, human resource development and economic participation of women as priorities for government in the Occupied Territories.

"At the Crossroads: Challenges and Choices for Palestinian Women in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip" is the first comprehensive report that addresses the needs of Palestinian women and identifies concrete policy initiatives that could facilitate their equal access to, and

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Costa Rican President presents a model for sustainable development — Small Grants Programme on the environment expands its scope — UNDP helps Kyrgyzstan manage its aid flows

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***UNDP and FAO**, continued*

Despite progress in per capita food production globally, the joint declaration noted that food supplies are not equitably distributed and that food insecurity, poverty and environmental degradation go hand in hand. In low-income food-deficit countries, where the bulk of the world's poor live, special attention must be paid to local food production and related problems such as gender issues, human skills development, and the capacity to manage natural resources.

"In these countries, improvements in food production and productivity must be the engine of equitable and sustainable development," according to the joint FAO/UNDP declaration. There is a pressing need for resilient farming and agro-forestry systems that can support higher yields, incorporating agro-ecological methods to enhance soil fertility, improving water management, and managing pests through integrated approaches.

According to FAO and UNDP, the concerted effort to support national action to achieve sustainable food security will be based on increased food production, sustainable use of natural resources, progress in alleviating poverty, better access and improved equity.

In order to achieve significant progress in food security, the two organizations called for increased investment, building essential capacities, an enabling policy environment and enhancing awareness of food security situation and trends.

Through their enhanced partnership, FAO and UNDP said they hope to encourage governments, NGOs, international institutions and the international community at large to join in this effort to arrest world food insecurity.

***Palestinian women**, continued*

participation in the development process.

The UNDP report assesses the needs of Palestinian women in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to ensure their full and equal partnership with men in development efforts, especially during the current transitional period of interim self-government.

The idea of fielding an independent team to research this report came on the heels of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which was signed on 13 September 1993. UNDP has been dispensing capital and technical assistance for the development of the Occupied Territory. In this context, the Gender-in-Development Programme of UNDP sent a mission to the region earlier this year, funded by the Government of Norway. The mission reported that most of the female industrial labour force is in the informal sector. The report suggests that "policy research should be directed toward achieving a better understanding of the extent of women's participation in the informal sector and their working conditions."

The report says that human resource development for women, both in vocational and training facilities, tends to focus on skills in traditional areas. "As economic opportunities expand, it is essential that women have access to diversified training," says the report.

The only form of self-government in the Occupied Territory has been the local municipal administrations and village councils which have had no female representation, says the report. "Attempts should be made to raise the consciousness of municipal authority representatives and village councils to introduce mechanisms for responding to women's needs," says the report. The report further states that "the first and foremost policy action regarding the establishment of the Palestinian civil service should be a proclamation that it will be an equal opportunity civil service." The authors say that the report could serve as a "framework through which development programmes can be planned and implemented."

Costa Rican President presents a model for sustainable development

Sustainable development in Costa Rica is "anchored on a combination of social investment, macro-economic balances and an alliance with nature," said Costa Rican President José Maria Figueres, addressing a Forum on Sustainable Development in New York on 29 September. "Forty-five years ago when we decided to abolish the army in our country, we took a bold step forward. That position enabled us to begin investing our peace dividend in two main areas. The first area, social programmes, enabled us to invest heavily in health, education and housing. The other area of investment is in infrastructure — roads, airports, ports, communication facilities and government installations."

President Figueres outlined some of the elements of the Costa Rican model for sustainable development. "We are revamping our preventive health system," said President Figueres. "We are also revamping our education system from grammar school on up."

In the energy sector, "we are beginning to institute demand-side management programmes to reduce energy consumption," he said. Ten per cent of an imposed tax on gas is used for roads and infrastructure, and five per cent is earmarked for tree-planting. Other components of his sustainable development programme include changes in mass transportation, agricultural development, tourism and fiscal policies.

UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth told the forum, "Sustainable development is a revolutionary concept" and that there is "no better place to start that revolution than in Costa Rica." Mr. Speth added, "We face a tragic situation in which the industrial world is failing to come through with the commitments it made in Rio. We have to reinvigorate those commitments."

Mr. Maurice Strong, Chairman of the Earth Council said, "The leadership process of moving from Rio to reality is well-under way in Costa Rica."

Other speakers at the forum, sponsored by the Government of Costa Rica, the Earth Council and UNDP were: Leonardo Garnier, Minister of Planning and Economic Policy; and René Castro, Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines.

Small Grants Programme on the environment expands its scope

A total of $16 million has been committed to the GEF Small Grants Programme, a pilot initiative of the Global Environment Facility. Now operating in 33 countries, the programme awards grants of up to $50,000 for community-based activities by people's organizations and NGOs that address problems in the GEF thematic areas: global warming, destruction of biological diversity, pollution of international waters and, to the extent that they relate to these areas of concern, desertification and other land degradation issues. UNDP manages the programme on behalf of GEF.

The main objective of the programme in the pilot phase has been to identify and demonstrate effective strategies that could reduce threats to the global environment if replicated successfully over time.

The programme is beginning to attract bilateral and private funding, including $3 million from USAID and $300,000 from the MacArthur Foundation for activities in the Eastern Caribbean.

To date, nearly 300 community-based projects have been chosen for awards. Most projects seek to conserve biodiversity, but many address global warming. Grants have varied in amount, from as little as $560 for a project to improve the environmental impact of furnaces in Nepal, to $50,000 for coastal zone management in Turkey and range management in Zimbabwe.

The Small Grants Programme is in a transition from its pilot phase to a longer-term operational phase. Preparations are now underway for an independent evaluation of the programme. The evaluation will assess strengths and weaknesses in implementation and will draw lessons from the pilot phase. The findings of the evaluation will contribute to development of a three-year (1995-1997) programme plan and funding replenishment proposal for submission to the GEF Council. The plan will provide for continuation of the programme in the current pilot countries, extension of the programme to new countries, and the addition of regional initiatives.

UNDP helps Kyrgyzstan manage its aid flows

UNDP is providing assistance to the Kyrgyzstan government for mobilizing and making efficient use of foreign aid. It is helping to strengthen the capacity of the country's institutions in managing and coordinating the increased amount of external resources that will be coming into the country. Specifically, UNDP will help develop basic understanding, skills and procedures within ministries and other agencies handling external assistance.

Following independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, the Government of Kyrgyzstan embarked on a major programme of political and economic reform. As with many of the other former Soviet republics, the transition process revealed numerous and fundamental weaknesses in the structure and management of the economy. Furthermore, the reform process has slowed considerably over the past year due to the adverse social and political impacts of the economic transition.

During the last two years, therefore, the disruption of traditional industries and the continued fall in government revenues has placed increasing importance on the mobilization and efficient use of external assistance. This assistance has so far included loans from the IMF and the World Bank, bilateral government loans and credits, and bilateral and multilateral grants for technical cooperation and emergency support programmes.

The long-term effective mobilization and use of such external assistance in Kyrgyzstan will depend on the government's ability to manage and coordinate the design, financing and implementation of substantial public investment and technical assistance programmes. UNDP will also help the country develop the capabilities to identify and match the range of potential sources of external finance and technical assistance with local needs and development opportunities.

In addition, this UNDP effort will lay the groundwork for an exercise called NaTCAP — National Technical Cooperation Assessment and Programmes. Since 1986, UNDP has been assisting developing countries to assess and programme their technical cooperation needs through NaTCAPS. Although there are now more than 40 UNDP NaTCAP-type exercises in operation, this methodology is only just being intro-

duced to the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union. The new UNDP programme to help Kyrgyzstan manage its flow of external resources will also provide the needed training, skills and institutional offices to conduct a future NaTCAP exercise in the country.

Approved projects:

(all projects are subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia – Building Capacity in the Maghreb to respond to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – This project will assist Maghreb countries to develop policies and projects that will promote efficiency in energy production, transport, and consumption, as well as forest conservation.

Global Environment Facility contribution: $2.5 million. Funds will be used for equipment, training and consultants. Executed by the Government of Morocco on behalf of all four governments. Implemented by the relevant ministries in each country. (RAB/94/G31)

Brazil – Strengthening of the Ministry of External Relations – The Ministry of External Relations in Brazil is the government body responsible for formulating and carrying out foreign policy. This initiative will help to build capacity in the area of foreign economic affairs. Support will be given to modernize management and administrative methods, upgrade the coordination of economic policy, and strengthen public relations and communications. A computer system will be installed and training facilities will be expanded.

Government cost-sharing: $17,100,000. Funds will be used for training, equipment and subcontracts. The lead government authority is the Ministry of External Relations. The project will be executed by the General Under-Secretariat for Integration. (BRA/94/002)

Regional Project in Africa – Aid Coordination Support to African Round Tables and Consultative Group Meetings – For many African countries, aid flows have become increasingly critical to their development efforts. UNDP's Round Table process and the World Bank's Consultative Group Meetings have emerged as important means for fostering policy dialogue and aid coordination between developing countries and their development partners. This project will assist approximately 18 countries to prepare and organize their Round Tables and Consultative Group Meetings.

UNDP contribution: $2,345,000. Funds will be used for consultants, reports, and official missions. Executed by the Office for Project Services. Implemented by the relevant governments. (RAF/94/802)

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UNDP approves first country programme for Cambodia

The approval of the first ever Country Programme for Cambodia marks an important turning point in UNDP's relations with Cambodia. The partnership between Cambodia and UNDP begins to move beyond rehabilitation and reconstruction concerns to tackle medium and longer-range sustainable human development. The Programme was approved by UNDP's Executive Board at its most recent session, held in New York on 6-10 October.

From 1991 when a UNDP Liaison Office was opened in Phnom Penh until September 1993 when, following the successful conclusion of the UN Transitional Authority (UNTAC) operations in Cambodia, UNDP activities were concerned first and foremost with the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons and the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure. In the absence of an approved country programme, UNDP provided well-targeted support to Cambodia, based on a systematic assessment of needs. The new Country Programme will provide a bridge between the involvement of UNDP in the earlier, transitional phase of Cambodia's rehabilitation and the longer-term reconstruction and development phase.

It will cover the period October 1994 through 1996, with core resources available from UNDP to Cambodia amounting to US$90 million. These funds have helped to attract additional resources from other contributors. The Programme outlines the manner in which UNDP, working in close association with other UN agencies, bilateral donors and NGOs, will respond to the priorities of the Royal government's own National Programme to Rehabilitate and Develop Cambodia.

The Country Programme will address two major areas. First, Cambodia is a predominantly agrarian society. Existing UNDP rural development efforts will be expanded, and new initiatives launched. The government and UNDP have together selected additional provinces to be covered by the Cambodia Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme (CARERE). These efforts will complement ongoing support to rural employment and income generation programmes.

More than 10 million land mines that have been laid over the last several decades not only take a personal toll — they kill or maim 300 Cambodians a month — but they also severely hamper development activities and potential. Therefore, the new Country Programme will also continue to provide

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Sid Kane/UNDP

South African President Nelson Mandela and UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth at the signing ceremony on 3 October of the agreement which formalizes UNDP assistance to South Africa, and the opening of UNDP's office there. Following the signing, Mr. Speth said that UNDP "wants very much to be supportive of South Africa's reconstruction and development programme", and that attacking poverty will be a clear priority. UNDP's programme budget in South Africa for the 1994-1996 period is $10 million. Its first main goal is to assist in organizing a donors' conference for South Africa to be held in Cape Town.

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Cambodia, *continued*

support to de-mining activities.

A second major area for new UNDP activity will promote governance and economic reform. UNDP will help strengthen efforts by the Royal government to reform its public administration while streamlining and revamping its civil service. These activities will be accompanied by a programme aimed at establishing a modern banking system in Cambodia, while also leading to a substantial increase in domestically-generated resources for development through tax and custom reforms. To help make all these programmes work effectively, UNDP will provide support to strengthen the country's capacity to coordinate and manage its external assistance.

UNDP plans for initiatives in Haiti

UNDP is initiating activities in anticipation of the return of Constitutional Government in Haiti. UNDP's future contribution to the country's transitional process will most likely focus on the areas of governance, sustainable human development, state reform and humanitarian aid.

UNDP will provide assistance to reinforce the institutions that can support democracy and social participation in the country. UNDP has already begun the formulation of a comprehensive governance programme, which could provide the general framework for negotiations between the government and external donors.

This governance programme will

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Highlights of the Executive Board of UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund, 6-10 October

The Executive Board:

- Approved the first country programme for Cambodia (see cover story).
- Requested the Administrator to prepare an assessment of Haiti's development needs and activities in order to review the level of available resources for 1995-96.
- Authorized "the Administrator and Executive Director of OPS to proceed further with the implementation of decision 94/12, to this end taking all steps necessary to establish a self-financing United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) which will become a separate and identifiable entity as of 1 January 1995." It reaffirmed that (UNOPS) "will operate within the United Nations development system and will not become a new agency and that the requirements regarding accountability must be consistent with the decision not to establish a new agency."
- Continued their deliberations on matters relating to the framework for the next programming period. The Board reviewed a wide range of alternative options to the present system of allocating and managing UNDP resources. Several of these options will be elaborated further for the next session of the Executive Board.
- The Executive Board will meet next in New York on 10-13 January 1995.

The Governing Council of UNDP and UNFPA was transformed into an Executive Board last December by the UN General Assembly. The new UNDP/UNFPA Board replaces the Governing Council, and is responsible for providing intergovernmental guidance to UNDP and UNFPA.

Milton Grant/UN

Nearly four years ago, the people of Haiti chose a president by means of a peaceful, democratic election. UNDP's future contribution to the country will most likely focus on governance, sustainable human development, state reform and humanitarian aid.

Haiti, *continued*

help to strengthen Parliament, and the electoral and judicial systems. It will assist in the creation of a civil police force, and the office of a people's Ombudsman for human rights.

An Emergency Economic Recovery Programme (EERP) was produced by a multi-agency team led by UNDP and a Haitian Presidential Commission. Beyond supporting the implementation of this short-term economic programme, UNDP has offered to assist the government in devising a long-term strategy to ensure the viability of the Haitian economy.

In conjunction with the implementation of EERP and in cooperation with UN agencies, UNDP is willing to work with the government in addressing the country's social problems. Special emphasis will be placed on meeting basic needs for creating sustainable livelihoods for the poorest sectors of the population.

The crisis in Haiti has intensified the rate of environmental degradation. UNDP is ready to support a comprehensive environmental rehabilitation programme. It has already undertaken an inventory of national resources and a survey of national capacities in environmental management.

Initiation of public sector reform will help to increase efficiency and ensure fiscal viability. The reform process will be geared toward government decentralization, modernizing laws related to the state and the economy and creating an updated civil registry.

The UNDP Resident Representative in Haiti acts as UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator. Immediately after the coup, UNDP, jointly with the UN and the Organization of American States (OAS) agencies with field presence, designed a comprehensive humanitarian assistance programme. With the return of democratic government, UNDP is ready to work with the UN system and other donors to revise and upgrade this programme to reflect new requirements and the need to gradually transform humanitarian assistance into longer-term development activities.

Wherever possible, UNDP will seek the active participation of national and international NGOs in the implementation of projects and programmes. UNDP is also geared to work with the Latin American governments to help them to organize and coordinate their support to the Haitian recovery.

New report offers strategies for Sustainable human development in the Pacific region

The contradiction of large-scale domestic and foreign investment and low economic growth apparent in many Pacific islands implies considerable inefficiencies in economic management, according to the recently released Pacific Human Development Report. The 80-page volume, which suggests strategies for sustainable human development in the region, argues that significant improvements in human development can be achieved with more efficient allocation and use of currently available resources.

A theme running through the Report is the need for better planning and management of existing resources. Given the combined factors of a fragile environment, high population growth and low economic growth in the Pacific, development decisions need to include careful attention to the social, environmental and economic impact of development activities in order to ensure their sustainability.

The preparation of the Pacific Human Development Report, two years in the making, involved consultations with Pacific island governments, regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

The Putting People First logo is the symbol for the Pacific Sustainable Human Development Initiative. It symbolises partnership, equity and a shared vision for the future of the people of the Pacific islands.

External assistance can be used more effectively with better planning, policy articulation and improved aid coordination, says the report. It notes, for example, that greater investments in primary and secondary education and preventive and primary health care will yield higher returns in terms of the large segment of the population who will benefit from such services.

The report also urges sound environmental management. It calls for a greater use of environmental analysis as a means of assessing the true costs and benefits of development decisions. It emphasizes the need for strong and far-sighted leadership that places the long-term sustainability of island environments above current short-term gains.

More effective and ongoing mechanisms for data collection are a vital part of sustainable development, ac-

cording to the Report, because they provide valuable information for planning and decision-making.

The aim of the UNDP-sponsored Report is to stimulate the debate over human development issues and to act as a first step towards a greater focus on sustainable human development policies and programmes in the Pacific. The Pacific Human Development Report was adopted by the ministers of the region in May; and by the heads of state in August, as part of their submission to the World Summit on Social Development. Some of the Pacific countries, like Vanuatu, now plan to produce national human development reports.

The three UNDP offices of the South Pacific — Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa — are promoting sustainable human development at two levels: advocacy, through the Pacific Human Development Report, and through their programmes. Of particular note is the Equitable and Sustainable Human Development Programme, which targets disadvantaged groups (women, unemployed urban youth and people living on outlying atolls) through a series of micro-enterprise activities that will be implemented in partnership between government and civil society.

Group of 77/UNDP Award created for achievements in technical and economic cooperation

UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth established an annual Group of 77/UNDP Award for outstanding contributions to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. The creation of the award marks the 30th anniversary of the Group of 77. Mr. Speth formally launched the award at last month's Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77.

The award will be granted each year to an individual, group or institution for an initiative that is likely to make the greatest contribution to the advancement of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Cooperation Among Developing Countries (ECDC). The winning initiative will be selected by a panel comprised of representatives of the Group of 77 and UNDP. The award will be announced annually on the anniversary of the formation of the Group of 77 and presented during the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group.

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